

Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

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S/S :REWOODS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 114279

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, US, UR

SUBJECT: GROMYKO'S SPEECH

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

1. THE COUNSELOR CALLED IN SOVIET DCM VORONTSOV MAY 15 AND IN THE SECRETARY'S NAME EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT THE PERSONAL CRITICISMS OF THE SECRETARY IN FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO'S WARSAW PACT SPEECH. THE COUNSELOR SAID THAT IT IS NORMAL TO EXPRESS DIFFERING VIEWS AND DIFFERING ASSESSMENTS OF THE SITUATION BUT IT WAS SURPRISING THAT THE

FOREIGN MINISTER AT THIS TIME--JUST A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE MEETING IN VIENNA--CHOSE TO CRITICIZE THE SECRETARY BY NAME. THE COUNSELOR NOTED THE EFFORTS BEING MADE BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY ON BEHALF OF SALT AND OTHER DISARMAMENT MEASURES IN THIS COUNTRY, AND SAID THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS ARE NOT ONLY UNFAIR, UNREASONABLE AND INACCURATE, BUT ALSO UNWISE IN TERMS OF THE DEBATE WE ARE NOW COPING WITH. HE ALSO NOTED THAT
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SOVIET MILITARY EXPENDITURES ARE NOT EXACTLY NEGLIGIBLE.

2. VORONTSOV RESPONDED THAT HE DID NOT HAVE A TEXT OF
THE GROMYKO REMARKS AND COULD NOT THEREFORE COMMENT, BUT

HE WOULD REPORT IMMEDIATELY OUR VIEWS TO MINISTER
GROMYKO. KISSINGER

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